

Message Text

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12

ACTION FSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0718

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS LAHORE 0143

ATTN: CHIEF, FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, ASEC (THEFT OF FUNDS BY CONFIDENCE MEN)

SUBJ: INVESTIGATION OF IRREGULARITY

REF: 1. ISLAMABAD 0572

2. 3 FAM 634

1. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976, THE CASHIER AT THE AMCONSUL LAHORE WAS ROBBED OF THIRTEEN HUNDRED RUPEES (U.S. DOLLARS 131.31).

2. THE THEFT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY TWO MALES, WHO CONFUSED AND CONNED THE CASHIER. THE SUBJECTS ENTERED THE CONSULATE AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THEY REQUIRED CONSULAR SERVICES. WHILE WAITING TO SEE AN OFFICER THEY APPROACHED THE RECEPTIONIST AND REQUESTED CHANGE OF A FIFTY RUPEE NOTE. THE RECEPTIONIST INFORMED THEM SHE COULD NOT MAKE CHANGE AND DIRECTED THEM TO THE CASHIER. AT THE CASHIER'S WINDOW THE MEN ASKED FOR THE CHANGE OF THE FIFTY RUPEE NOTE AND RECEIVED FIVE, 10 RUPEE NOTES. THE MEN THEN TOOK OUT TWO, 50 RUPEE NOTES AND ASKED FOR ONE, 100 RUPEE NOTE WHICH THE CASHIER GAVE THEM. ONE OF THE MEN THEN TOOK OUT A WAD OF US DOLLARS AND INQUIRED IF THE CASHIER WOULD GIVE HIM A US ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL IN EXCHANGE. THE CASHIER INFORMED HIM HE DID NOT HAVE A BILL OF THAT DENOMINATION; AND ADDED THAT TWENTY DOLLAR NOTES WERE THE LARGEST DENOMINATION HE HAD AVAILABLE. THE SUBJECT THEN PULLED OUT A US TWENTY DOLLAR NOTE AND ASKED IF IT COULD BE EXCHANGED FOR AN "F" SERIES US

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TWENTY DOLLAR NOTE. THE CASHIER FOUND AN "F" SERIES TWENTY

DOLLAR NOTE AND MADE THE EXCHANGE FOR WHICH THE SUBJECT OFFERED THE CASHIER FIVE RUPEES, WHICH HE REFUSED. THE SUBJECT THEN ENQUIRED IF THE CASHIER HAD ANY ONE HUNDRED RUPEE NOTES WITH A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE BADSHAHI MOSQUE ON THE REAR, IMPLYING THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENT SERIES ONE HUNDRED RUPEE NOTES, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE MOSQUE. THE CASHIER SHOWED THE SUBJECTS A ONE HUNDRED RUPEE NOTE AND TOLD THEM THE REST WERE THE SAME, WHICH THE SUBJECTS QUESTIONED AND ASKED TO SEE ALL THE NOTES. WHEN THE CASHIER HESITATED ONE OF THE SUBJECTS QUESTIONED "WHY? DON'T YOU TRUST ME? IF YOU DO NOT TRUST ME, YOU CAN HAVE MY DOLLAR BILLS IN EXCHANGE." HE THEN GRABBED THE PACKET OF BILLS AND STARTED TO SHUFFLE THROUGH IT ALLEGEDLY LOOKING FOR A NOTE WITH A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE MOSQUE. HE THEN RETURNED THE PACKET OF BILLS AND DEPARTED THE CASHIER'S WINDOW. WHEN THE CASHIER PICKED UP THE PACKET HE FELT IT WAS SMALLER AND A COUNT DISCLOSED 13 BILLS (1300 RUPEES) WERE MISSING. THE CASHIER ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE THE SUBJECTS BUT THEY HAD ALREADY LEFT THE PREMISES AND COULD NOT BE LOCATED.

3. A COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND DETAILS OF THE THEFT WERE IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED TO THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER IN ISLAMABAD WHO ALERTED ALL POSTS IN PAKISTAN (BY TELEPHONE) AND AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADJOINING COUNTRIES (REFTEL) OF THE DETAILS.

4. LAHORE FUNDS WERE IMMEDIATELY AUDITED AND THE LOSS CONFIRMED.

5. LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED BUT NO ARRESTS HAVE AS YET BEEN MADE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

6. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1976, TWO INDIVIDUALS (BELIEVED TO BE THE SAME AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE) ENTERED THE U.S. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD, AND ATTEMPTED THE SAME SCHEME. THE EMBASSY CASHIER MADE CHANGE BUT, AS HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED, WOULD NOT SHOW HIS RUPEES AND LOST NO FUNDS. UNFORTUNATELY HE DID NOT REPORT THE INCIDENT UNTIL AFTER THE SUSPECTS HAD LEFT THE PREMISES AND THEY WERE NOT APPREHENDED.

7. IT HAS SINCE BEEN LEARNED THAT A SIMILAR SCHEME WAS RECENTLY WORKED ON THE CASHIER ON THE LAHORE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
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BY TWO INDIVIDUALS. HE REPORTS THE LOSS OF THIRTY ONE HUNDRED RUPEES (U.S. DOLLARS 313.13) TO THE CONFIDENCE MEN.

8 THE CONSULATE GENERAL CASHIER HAS NOT BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES.
GIBNEY

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